(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of these foreign registered aircrafts were being piloted by expatriates whose security clearance had not been done by agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to check such air space violations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No foreign registered aircraft is allowed to operate to/from and within India in an unrestricted manner, except as a part of approved international itinerary. Prior approval of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is required to operate foreign registered aircraft within India for each and every flight and the permission is duly conveyed by DGCA to the concerned ATC units, who further convey to the Indian Air Force authorities for getting the Air Defence Clearance. The procedure does not involve Ministry of Home Affairs at any stage.

(c) and (d) As per the practice in vogue, security clearance for crew members of foreign registered aircraft that are allowed to be retained in India for specific purpose and for specific period is not required from the Ministry of Home Affairs. The security clearance requirement is applicable only in respect of the foreign pilots operating Indian registered aircraft.

Equity base of NACIL

2337. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to raise the equity base of National Aviation Company India Ltd. (NACIL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has submitted a proposal to the Government for infusion of additional equity in the company which is under examination.

Bail out package for civil aviation companies

2338. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal from his Ministry to Government to bail-out certain civil aviation companies from their financial and economic crisis;

(b) the details of the proposal made by the Ministry regarding each company or otherwise;

(c) the grounds given in the matter; and

(d) the details of the response of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. There was no proposal to bailout specific civil aviation companies. However,

Government had constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary comprising of Finance Secretary; Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation; Secretary, Department of Revenue; Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Secretary, Planning Commission; Dr. Deepak Parekh, Chairman, HDFC; Dr. Raghuram, Professor, IIM, Ahmedabad to examine various issues relating to the current financial crisis being faced by domestic airlines.

Two meetings of the committee have been held on 14.08.2008 and 18.11.2008.

(b) The Ministry had *Inter alia* proposed rationalization of Sales Tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), removal of custom duty on ATF, Allowing Private Domestic Airlines to operate on international routes, Foreign Direct Investment in Air Transport Sector.

(c) The main ground was the steep rise in the prices of ATF, which accounted for 45-50% of the operating cost of the Indian carriers as compared to global average operating cost of 25-30%. The Airlines had started incurring heavy losses due to very high ATF prices.

(d) The Government has taken various steps to help the domestic aviation industry which *Inter-alia* are as under:

(1) Custom duty on import of ATF has been abolished.

(2) The Oil Companies have staggered the dues of Airline Companies over six months. Oil Companies have also extended the credit period.

(3) With the fall in global crude prices, the Oil Companies have been reducing ATF prices since September, 2008. They have also started announcing the ATF prices on a fortnightly basis rather than monthly basis which is helping the Airlines when the crude prices are going down.

Dues of airport developers

2339. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airport developers both in public and private sectors are not getting their dues from the airlines;

(b) if so the details thereof, airline-wise;

(c) whether Government has assessed the impact of the default on payment of dues on airport development;

(d) whether it is also a fact that due to reduction in number of flights and passenger flow, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other private airport developers are losing a substantial amount;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which Government proposes to mop up required money for future development of civil aviation infrastructure in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the airlines have not been settling their dues in time. In respect of